

## STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting, April 4, 2013

Wallace State Office Bldg, Des Moines, IA

### Appointed SSCC Members in Attendance:

#### SSCC Members:

Kelly Tobin, Chair, SSCC Member, New Market  
Jean Eells, SSCC Member, Webster City  
Dale Farnham, SSCC Member, Ames  
Vance Hjelm, SSCC Member, Lake Park  
Jody Kerns, SSCC Member, Edgewood  
Jeani Leyda, SSCC Member, Bloomfield  
Sherman Lundy, SSCC Member, Cedar Falls, entered at 10:16 a.m.  
Charles McCullough, SSCC Member, Bernard  
Tim Palmer, SSCC Member, Truro

### Staff in Attendance:

Todd Coffelt, DSC, Bureau Chief  
Jim Gillespie, Division Director, DSC  
Vince Sitzmann, DSC, Bureau Chief  
Tarrita Spicer, DSC, Administrative Assistant, Note Taker

### Ex Officio Members and Advisors in Attendance:

Steve Hopkins, Department of Natural Resources  
John Lawrence, Iowa State University  
Clare Lindahl, Conservation Districts of Iowa  
Jon Hubbert, Natural Resources Conservation Service

### Additional Attendees:

Dr. Mark Rasmussen, Executive Director, Leopold Center  
Professor Michael Castellano, Iowa State University  
Ben Gleason, Iowa Corn Promotion Board  
Paula Ellis, Incoming SSCC Member, Donnellson

### Absent:

Dave Shanahan, Cherokee County Engineers Association  
Jay Mar, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Meeting called to order at 10:00 am

**2013 – 9**      Jean made a motion to approve the minutes for the March 4th, meeting. Dale seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Rasmussen – Leopold Center Executive Director (hardcopy of presentation with official minutes)

Professor Michael Castellano – Iowa State University, Dept. of Agronomy (hardcopy of presentation with official minutes)

### Bureau Chief Reports

- Mines & Minerals – Coffelt (hardcopy of report with official minutes)
- Water Resources – Coffelt (hardcopy of report with official minutes)
- Field Services – Sitzmann (hardcopy of report with official minutes)

Director's Report – Gillespie (hardcopy of report with official minutes)

Partner Reports

- Natural Resource Conservation Service – Hubbert (hardcopy of report with official minutes)

Reception for Jeani Leyda for her last day.

**2013 – 10** Sherm made a motion to approve and accept the resolution to recognize Jeani Leyda. Charles seconded. Motion carried unanimously. (copy attached to official minutes)

- Engineers – Shanahan (copy of email see below)
  - Ms. Spicer, my report for the SSSC committee is as follows. I have secured a 1 hour session to be held at the ISAC Fall 2013 meetings at the Downtown Marriot Hotel for the NRCS and this committee explain and outline the repair, replacement or removal responsibilities that Iowa counties that are co-sponsors with the local SWCD districts will be facing to care for the watershed structures that have been installed to protect infrastructure in their counties. The session will be held between 11:00 to 12:00 noon on November 14, 2013. It is most likely going to include a panel discussion with both engineers and supervisors on that panel and both in the audience. I will be contacting the group to get the names of the presenters and supply those individuals with speaker info. Sheets and background sheets so as to introduce the speakers. I feel this will be an excellent opportunity for this matter to be brought out to not only the Engineers but to the Supervisors as well and should be well attended especially by those counties that have these structures in their counties and who serve as co-sponsors.
- Leopold Center – Farnham (hardcopy of report with official minutes)
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Hopkins (hardcopy of report with official minutes)
- Conservation Districts of Iowa – Lindahl (hardcopy of report with official minutes)

Old Business

- Soil & Water Conservation Week: April 29<sup>th</sup> – May 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Please contact Jackie Suckow at [Jackie.Suckow@IowaAgriculture.gov](mailto:Jackie.Suckow@IowaAgriculture.gov) or 515-725-2853 if your District is hosting any events for publication.
- Summer Tour
  - June 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> in Fort Dodge, Iowa, Best Western Starlite Village
  - Summer Tour planning committee will be driving the possible tour stops to format the agenda on April 8<sup>th</sup>.
- SSCC Research & Demonstration Grants
  - Applications Update: process closed April 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - Funding: 19 applications received for a total of \$994,335.
  - District Operations Subcommittee will score the submissions and meet prior to next SSCC meeting May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**2013 – 11** Jean made a motion to increase the Research & Demonstration funding to \$500,000. Dale seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

## New Business

- SSCC member changes
  - Jeani Leyda is retiring, April is her last month.
  - Paula Ellis will be filling the vacancy left by Jeani's retirement; her term begins in May.
- Brainstorm Honorary Award winners (selection should be made by June, July at the latest)
  - Suggested honorees: Rich Sims; Dean Lemke; Harold Whipple; Jeani Leyda
- Discussion of FY15
  - Legislative Changes – updates to both
    - 161A.76
    - 161E.9
  - Budget – what funding requests will we propose?
  - Planning subcommittee will meet April 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss the topics listed above.
- Discuss May 2nd SSCC meeting
  - Meeting will begin at 10
  - Lunch at Jethro's BBQ Lakehouse, Ankeny at 12:15 p.m.
  - Urban Conservation tour to start at 1:30 p.m.

## Vacancies in the Office of SWCD Commissioner

- Vacancy:
  - Monroe SWCD: Accept the vacancy due to the passing of Albert Tangie. Accept the recommendation for appointment of Marvin Wirtjes. Mr Wirtjes resides in Troy Township, Monroe County; has served as an Asst. Commissioner since 1995.
  - Monroe SWCD: Accept the resignation of Susan Ammons as commissioner. Accept the recommendation for appointment of Raymond Joseph Pyle. Mr. Pyle is a farmer in Union Township, Monroe County; has worked in conjunction with the District as well as USDA-NRCS to implement conservation practices on the land he stewards.
  - Warren SWCD: Accept the recommendation for appointment of Jim Meadows, Lincoln Township, Indianola to fill the vacancy on the board.

**2013 – 12**      Jean made a motion to approve the above resignations, vacancies and appointments. Dale seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

## SSCC Member Reports

- Jody: voting on Tree Farmer of the Year, Forestry Health Initiative is in the House for review. Currently there is a Bill that goes after the Forestry Reserve. Attended two district meetings.
- Jean: Shared WFAN Booklet which was funded out of the REAP Conservation Grant; held focus groups.
- Tim: Traveled to D.C as the new NACD Central Region Board member.
- Dale: March 5<sup>th</sup> attended the Agricultural Leaders banquet. March 7<sup>th</sup>, attended the Story Co commissioners meeting. March 12<sup>th</sup> Leopold Board meeting. March 13<sup>th</sup>, Region 6 meeting. Met with Jim on March 15<sup>th</sup> and on March 29<sup>th</sup>, assisted in reviewing scholarship applications for CDI.
- Vance: March 5<sup>th</sup> attended Agricultural Leaders Banquet.
- Charles: Attended a tour at the Guild Wind plant in Pella.
- Jeani: Attended a Regional meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup>, commissioner meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup> and assisted with the SWCD scholarship application review process on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

- Kelly: March 5<sup>th</sup> attended the Agricultural Leaders Banquet, attended the Memorandum of Understanding meeting between Dupont and NRCS, presented at the Region 5 & 6 meetings.

#### Future Meetings

April 18<sup>th</sup>                      Thursday, 10:00 a.m.  
Planning Subcommittee – Conference Call

April 28<sup>th</sup> – May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013 – 2013 Soil & Water Conservation Week

May 2nd                      Thursday, 10:00 a.m.  
**Location: Polk SWCD, 1513 N Ankeny Blvd, Ankeny, IA 50021**  
**Followed by Urban Conservation tour and lunch at Jethro's BBQ (Ankeny)**  
9:00 a.m. for a sub-committee meeting if needed

June 11 & 12                State Committee/CDI tour & meeting, Tour, Tuesday, 11th  
CDI/SSCC Joint Meeting, 8:00 a.m.  
Regular SSCC meeting after 8:00 a.m. on June 12th, TBD  
Rooms may be reserved under: Iowa Department of Agriculture

**2013 – 13**                Jody made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:06 p.m. Tim seconded. Motion carried unanimously.